



# southern california dx club

September 2003



What do you do when the bands are "dead"? Well for some of us we go to a concert. The SCDXC was well represented at the 'Eagles' concert in Bakersfield last month. Here is the group visiting new club member Joe Walsh in his dressing room before the concert.

Left to right:

Marilyn, N6GIL,  
Dana, KF6RKU, Skip, KJ6Y, Liz,  
Joe, WB6ACU, Geri, Rich,  
W6VX, Pat, W6VXN, Toby,  
KA90FR, and Howard, W6EGZ.





I just returned from the Summer Bash down at Jim – W6YA's QTH. Once again, Jim put on a great event, and it was super to see the great turnout from the SCDXC. I think everyone that came down had a great time, and it was fun to see all of the great DXers and Contesters from all over the place get together to make this annual event.

If you missed the August meeting, you missed a great presentation from Bob - N6OX on his trip in April to Belarus (EW). Bob spent two weeks with Andy, EU7SA, his wife Larisa and family. Also, at the meeting, we added two noteworthy (and each famous in their own right) new members to the SCDXC membership at the last meeting, Bob Heil - K9EID, and Joe Walsh – WB6ACU!!!

Here's just a reminder that we will be having a Visalia 2004 Planning Meeting at my home QTH, on Saturday, September 13, 2003. Carl – WU6D, our Convention Chairman, is kicking off the planning for our 2004 convention, and we are looking for committed volunteers, helpers, and workers for all of the activities. So, if you are interested in volunteering for some activity related to the convention, please plan on attending. There is a map to my QTH in this month's bulletin. Here is my address: 17861 Fairhaven Ave. Santa Ana, CA 92705 – (phone 714-516-9100).

If you are coming from the LA area, take the 405 or the 5 freeway south towards Orange County. From either freeway, exit on the 22

*(Continued on page 10)*



August meeting was a good one, lots of conversations and a vote on the CW issue and even some alternatives for the ARRL. Our Speaker for the night was Bob, N6OX, and for those who weren't able to attend, he talked of his trip to Belarus, to operate DX and his main intention to bring back to the

United States, Andy EU7SA. He should us lots of "spring" time slides, which the ground was not full of daisies but snow. I personally enjoyed seeing how another person in a different country; makes do with what they have.

I want to thank those who participated in the vote for what time/day the Holiday Dinner should be. We had two double voters, 2 people who evidently came on the site and voted, but they weren't members.

The vote was 20 for December 7, 2003 at 12:30 p.m. and 8 for December 6, 2003 at 5:00 p.m. My suggestion at the club and I hope that this happens, if you want to come to the Holiday dinner and you can not drive, please let me know, and if you are willing to share a ride with someone, I will find someone in your area that is willing to help out.

Next meeting – plan and simple: Everyone is heading for dxpeditions, finishing up with conventions and getting ready for some more, and Carl & I have been pre occupied with building a home. I am going to work on a possibility and will have it announced on the reflector or web page. If I don't get someone, we will have a social hour of coffee, water, cookies, donuts, and maybe if I can find a store close at hand, Ice Cream. Have a great raffle and go home a little earlier.

## E-Mail Addresses

Please let the membership chairman know when you change your e-mail address.

## Next General Meeting

*The SCDXC meets the second Thursday of the month. Our next meeting will be held September 11, 2003 at Syd Kronenthal Park in Culver City. The park is located 4 blocks west of La Cienega Blvd. and 2 blocks south of Washington Blvd. From the 10 Freeway exit La Cienega south to Washington Blvd. Turn right (west) 4 blocks to McManus Ave (it's La Cienega Ave to the right, McManus to the left). Turn left (south) 2 blocks to the Park. The street dead-ends at the parking lot. Please do not park in the school lot.*

**Maybe an "ice cream social"**  
See ya there!



Not only did we manage to have a fine program and a vote on the CW issue we even managed to get the raffle in and finished up at about our regular time.

The CW vote went about as your might guess with a 29 to 3 vote to retain some form of code for licensing. For those that were not at the meeting the online survey was 41 to 12. The results of the vote and survey were forwarded to the ARRL. The suggestion was made by Dave Bell, W6AQ that the club make a donation to the ARRL to fight the proposed Broad Band Over Power Line (BPL) that is being proposed. As I write this, the board is looking at this and should have a decision long before the next meeting. I would also like to suggest that all of us as individuals also join the fight, you can get more details at the ARRL web site.

The program for August was a very interesting presentation by Bob Grimmick, N6OX on his trip in April to Belarus (EW). Bob spent two weeks with Andy, EU7SA, his wife Larisa and sons Andy Jr. & German. Operating is certainly more challenging in other countries, just dealing TVI in a city with a sea of TV antennas on the roof of every apartment can certainly make you appreciate the cable TV bill you get every month. The purpose of Bob's trip to Belarus was really to bring Andy back to the US for a 3 week visit that culminated in a "dream come true" visit to the DX Convention in Visalia. The whole trip was made possible through the generosity of numerous Southern California hams and coordinated by Bob (Bubba), W6ZPL and Bob, N6OX and was truly something that is only possible in our

## 2004 International DX Convention Kick-Off

Carl, WU6D, the Visalia 2004 Convention Chairman, has set the kick-off meeting for September 13, 2003; time: 12:00 pm, at Herb KG6OK's QTH.

This planning meeting is very important and Carl wants anyone who is interested in participating in the convention operation to attend.

Let him know what position you would like to fill and any thoughts or ideas on improving the event.

great hobby.

Thanks to the efforts of our VP Kathy, K6VC we had a raffle this month. Rich, W6VX walked away with a \$100.00 gift certificate to Jun's, Herb KG6OK latched on to an Alpha Delta sloper and Wayne, W6IRD ended up with a miniature straight key. I would also like to thank Bob Heil, K9EID of Heil Sound for his donation to the raffle.

I would like to welcome two new members SCDXC Bob Heil, K9EID and Joe Walsh, WB6ACU both joined the club at the August meeting. We look forward to seeing both of them at future meetings and club activities.

I hope everyone had as good a time at the Summer Bash as Linda & I did. I know I'm safe in saying that the members of the SCDXC would like to thank Jim, W6YA for all his efforts and making this year's Bash one of the best.

Keep an eye on the web site and your e-mail as we will be having our first Visalia planning meeting soon and volunteers are always needed.

73 DE Jim, N6DHZ

## Top of the DXCC Honor Roll (335) – SCDXC Members

CALL	MIXED	PHONE	CW
JA1BK	x	x	x
K2PLF	x	x	
K5KT	x	x	
K6EXO	x	x	
K6GXO	x		
K6YRA	x	x	
N6ET	x	x	
N6UC	x		
NQ6N	x		
OH2BH	x		
W6AUG		x	
W6EL	x	x	
W6RJ	x		
W6SR	x		
WA6TLA	x	x	xx
WB6RSE	x	x	xx

xx needs P5

(left you out? send email to editor)



**Last month** V.H.H. pledged 50K points towards his club totals. How many Qs does he need to make his commitment?

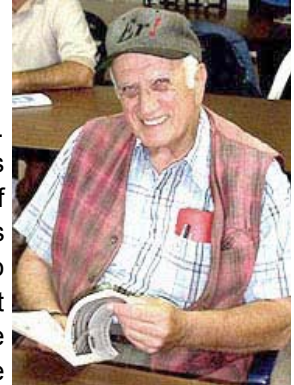
Points per Q (2) \* no. of Q's \* no. of sections, (79), yields 50086 points. Solving for Q the answer is 317 Q's.

**If he can only work 10 hours @ 40 Qs per hour X 2 points per q yields 800 points.**

800 points X no. of sections needed yields 50400 points. So he needs to contact at least 63 sections.

Any one get these answers?

This month we look over the shoulder of V. H.Ham who is hooked on antenna shapes that give maximum area (using 100 feet of wire), since he thinks that capture area is the same as plain area. He decides next to construct a delta shaped antenna. (a) what kind of a triangle (delta shape) does he build using the 100 feet of wire for all three sides? (b) What is the length of each side? (c) Supporting the antenna at an apex, how high should the mast be so that the flat side of the delta clears 50 feet?



*The editor asks a question:*

*Given the plan area, what is the capture area of the antenna?*



These predictions for the five prime HF bands show the times when propagation is expected to be best from Los Angeles to several locations

that are expected to be active during the coming month.

Other times are possible, but with weaker signals or lower probability. Openings are not expected on bands that are not listed. A solar flux of 115, corresponding to a sunspot number of 66, and an average geomagnetic field are assumed. Sunrise/sunset times are at the DX location. All times are UTC.

Good luck and good DX from Shel, W6EL.

JW Svalbard - 9/16 to 9/22 -  
Beam 9 degrees  
Sunrise/sunset 0405/1703

40: 0230-1030.  
20: 1430-1730 and 2100-2230.

FH Mayotte - 9/16 to 9/23 -  
Beam 39 degrees  
Sunrise/sunset 0253/1451  
40: Long path around 1430.  
20: 0000-0400. Long path 1330-1530.  
15: 1530-0030.

OJ0 Market Reef - 9/19 to 9/26 -  
Beam 20 degrees  
Sunrise/sunset 0436/1636  
40: 0200-0730.  
20: 1400-1530.  
15: 1600-1830.

S7 Seychelles - 9/23 to 9/27 -  
Beam 12 degrees  
Sunrise/sunset 0210/1410  
20: 0000-0330. Long path 1300-1430.  
15: 1600-2300 and around 0230.

FO Austral Islands - 9/18 to 10/3 -  
Beam 212 degrees  
Sunrise/sunset 1549/0353  
80: 0530-1330.  
40: 0400-1400.  
20: 0130-1600.  
15: 1630-0430.  
10: 1730-0130.

## NCDXC ELECTIONS

The Northern California DX Club has elected this year's officers.

They are:

President,  
W6JD, Doug Westover,  
Vice President,  
K6RK, Chuck Patterson  
Secretary,  
W6WZ, Mike Gavin  
Treasurer  
KG6AM, Dewey Churchill,  
Directors,  
KN6K, Keith Butts,  
W6VG, Ron Panton,  
AE6AI, Mitch Cipriano

The SCDXC wishes the new officers of the NCDXC a good year.



## E-Mail Address Change

If you change your e-mail address you should inform the membership chairman of the club. Larry's e-mail address is:  
k6yui@ix.netcom.com

## ARRL.NET Problems

For some months now the editor has had problems with arrl.net e mail addresses. For some reason that service will often reject your address if it is sent as part of a list. ARRL officials do not seem able to address this — so — if you are using the arrl.net service, we request that you provide us with your real address. Thanks

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## A GREAT BOOK!

A book written about a ham's collection of QSL cards was passed around at the July meeting. Here is the info many requested at that meeting.

The book is titled "HELLO WORLD" "A LIFE IN HAM RADIO" by DANNY GREGORY and PAUL SAHRE

It is published by the PRINCETON ARCHITECTURAL PRESS NEW YORK

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## East Timor decision

The ARRL Awards Committee will continue to consider East Timor and Timor-Leste as a single entity for DXCC credit. Thus all contacts with East Timor since March 2000 will remain valid for DXCC.

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## GOVERNOR SIGNS AB1228

AB1228, which officially recognizes the Federal PRB-1 Amateur Radio antenna preemption in California state law has been signed.

Assembly Bill 1228 declares that it is the intent of the Legislature to recognize the FCC's regulations that require that local regulations (1) reasonably accommodate structures needed by amateur radio stations and (2) be in compliance with federal statutes.

## FCC FEES

The FCC has announced that the new Amateur Radio vanity call sign regulatory fee of \$16.30 for the 10-year license term will go into effect September 9. Until then, applicants for amateur vanity call signs will continue to pay the current \$14.50 fee per vanity call sign application. The FCC says it expects to collect close to \$160,000 from 9800 Amateur Radio vanity call sign applicants during Fiscal Year 2003. That's up by almost \$30,000 and 800 applications from FY2002.

In releasing its annual Report and Order on the assessment and collection of regulatory fees for FY2003, the FCC responded at some length to comments filed from the amateur community. Some commenters had questioned the need for the fee, the requirement to pay it when renewing a vanity call sign and why refunds were not automatic.

A copy of the Report and Order is available on the FCC Web site at, [http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-03-184A1.doc](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-03-184A1.doc).

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## Cluster News

New software (DX spider) has been installed in most of the nodes comprising the local network. Along with this installation much of the backbone of the network has been converted to use the Internet. The updated network allows you to set filters limiting the spots shown to stations in specific locations. The default shows spots from stations in the US and Canada.

The Valley node, K6EXO, and the W6KK node also have telnet ports allowing you access the network without using two meters. The addresses are::

telnet://k6exo.dyndns.org:7300  
w6kk.zapto.org:7300

User guides and a telnet client (useful if to cannot connect directly—some users are having problems) are at:  
<http://webpages.charter.net/n6ws/>

Welcome!

## HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD! -

Thanks to the vision of ARRL's Public Relations Committee, the Board bestowed the first-ever ARRL Lifetime Achievement Award on Dave Bell, W6AQ. Noting the great success of the PR video, Amateur Radio Today, the PR Committee looked at Dave's sustained effort over the years including such memorable films as:

- \* The Ham's Wide World
- \* This is Ham Radio
- \* Moving Up to Amateur Radio
- \* The New World of Amateur Radio
- \* Ham Radio Olympics (WRTC-2000)
- \* Amateur Radio Today

## N7BK meets N7BK

*Al, K6YRA, sent this to the editor.*

Hi Lars SM5CAK,

I guess that I'm basically a lazy individual, as I'm writing this in English, even though it's also sent to many of my Swedish-speaking friends. It saves me from writing a Swedish version.

Lars, I remember when I answered your CQ on 15 meters on December 3rd, 2000 with my new call "N7BK". As you know, we have had many QSOs over the years with my calls WA2IJO, WD6ATC, KB7VD, and W7BOK. This QSO, however, was different. You were looking for new COUNTRIES, and when you heard "N7BK", you punched that call



sign into your computer, and you found that it belonged to Richard D. McGinley in Mitchell, Oregon, who lived in a very, very RARE county. I remember how excited you were,

and I felt terrible when I had to tell you that this was your old friend Bo, ex W7BOK, KB7VD, etc., who at the time resided in Point Loma, California in San Diego County; a very COMMON county!

Lars, last week I met the "original" N7BK!!!! My wife Ulla (K7AFB) and I were camping on the Oregon Coast, and we decided to drive to a small town by the name of Beaver, where there was supposed to be a scenic water fall. After a lot of driving, we finally found the place in the middle of the forest. We parked our car and hiked about half a mile to the "famous" water fall, which turned out to be almost dry at this time of the year. After taking some pictures we hiked back to our car. Upon returning, we found that there was an official looking vehicle parked behind us, and as we moved closer a Park Ranger in uniform appeared, and he said to me:

"Hi, I see that your license plate reads N7BK; this is strange, since N7BK is MY ham radio call sign."

"How could this be", I said. "I received this call from the FCC on May 9th, 2000".

To make a long story short, we chatted for a long time, and it turns out that Richard McGinley was under the impression that his amateur license did not have an expiration date, and he neglected to renew it by the time it was cancelled by the FCC on November 11, 1999.

This was lucky for me, as I was looking for a "one by two" call sign in the beginning of year 2000, and N7BK turned out to be available, and since BK are also my initials, it was certainly a good call sign for me.

As I said, Richard and I talked for a long time, and I gave him my QSL card as well as my telephone number in case he had any additional questions on how I was able to "steal" his old Amateur Radio Call Sign, Hi!!!!

I have attached a picture that Ulla took of Richard and I, when we had this unusual meeting in the middle of an Oregon forest.

IT'S A SMALL WORLD!!!!!!!

73, Bo  
N7BK  
Redmond, Washington



## Is CW Worthwhile?

As WRC-2003 winds down with the code requirement for HF bands lifted, each nation must now decide on its own how to handle CW. Switzerland and the U.K. have already dropped their code requirements. U.K. licensees have been granted full HF privileges as of July 25<sup>th</sup>. In our own country, the old contentious arguments are unfortunately being dredged up as they were prior to the no-code license. Is this really where we want to go? Rehash these old arguments trumpeted from dug-in, polarized, uncompromising positions?

Gut feel is that the FCC will likely be following the rest of the industrial world and CW licensing requirements will be phased out sooner or later. The ARRL has, in fact, already begun an Elmer mentoring program to welcome no-code hams to our HF bands.

Does this mean ham radio will become just another CB band? Does it mean CW will disappear altogether? Unlikely on both counts unless our apathy lets it happen. Let's think about it:

First, how about making it a positive experience by welcoming the newcomers to the HF bands. Hams have long been famous for their camaraderie; their feeling of support, helpfulness and just plain courtesy towards each other around the world. Personally I've made many, many friends on the HF bands as over 3000 QSL cards will attest. The XYL and I have visited many of these friends across the U.S. and Canada as well as in New Zealand, Ecuador, Peru, Argentina and throughout Europe. We've been met at the airport, picked up at our hotel, welcomed to dinner in their homes and had wonderful eyeball QSO's. We have also reciprocated with ham friends who have traveled through LAX. Without exception, it has been a wonderful, rewarding experience.

Surely we can extend similar courtesies to our own as they begin venturing into the HF bands. Whatever operating gaffes they commit can be resolved by simply extending a little courtesy. It's an old fashioned word, largely forgotten in these days of 10-second soundbites, me-first attitudes and overcrowded conditions. But courtesy is still contagious and is alive and well in ham radio. With your help, it always will be.

Slow down. Think first. The newcomers want to do it right – give them a helping hand. It's what hams do.

...Chuck KN6H

## When the Bands are FLAT

Sanford, W6YY, seems to have a lot of hobbies that keep him busy when the DX is rare. Almost everyone knows of his wonderful RV (*ed note: we have to get him to write an article and take some pictures of his mobile installation—a thing of beauty*). We received this picture and note and wanted to share it with you.

"Thanks to all of you at the CORVETTE SUPER SPORTS Participants Choice Car Show at the Buena Park Elks Lodge (August 23rd 2003) who voted for Big Blue #1 in the modified '97-'03 division. Lots of neat people and clubs.



A very nice car show.  
Save the Wave,  
Sanford & Big Blue



**CQ DX!**

## Here is a QSL for a QSO that is very special to me.

The time was 2 July 1948. The place was Compton Ca. The Compton Gashouse Gang was alive and active. My wife, Helen and I had daughter four years old and Helen was about two weeks overdue for our

spent 10 days in the Hospital after giving birth! Another major change. Today, our Son is 6ft 4in and 230 in weight and lives in Durango Co. and is a Senior Citizen. Please note the QSL came not in an envelope and no labels for address or report, band, etc. Everything LONG HAND. Another big change is the ONE CENT stamp for postage.

73, KC Jones



second. When the pains started we went to North Long Beach Hospital about a three par away from Don Wallace's (W6AM) place. Helen and I walked the halls of the Hospital most of the night with little results. About four A.M. things started to happen with Helen. At 6:30 AM. she delivered a 9 lb 9 1/2 oz Boy. About 7:30 AM. I staggered home to Compton.



For some reason, I turned on the old HQ 129x receiver and turned the full sized three element yagi to long path to Europe. I heard a new entity for me calling CQ. It was AR1WW in Damascus Syria. The Boys were all at work, so the band was most quiet. The station was LOUD on 20 meters C. W. I got him about the first call with my California KW. My call then was W6RLN. I got his QSL six months later from a manager in Washington D.C. At that time the rig was a pair of Radar tubes VRI27's that handled a lot of power with a 100TH 250 watt driver. In those days the final output was an amplifier running class C, not a linear. I shut down the equipment down and hit the sack and slept till about 6:P.M. that day. Later, I went back to see my XYL who was doing better than I was doing. In those days, new mothers

## Club Badges

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DX CLUB

N6DHz

JIM SHRYNE

**Badges are available in two sizes Medium (2" X 3") and Large (3" X 3.75") Both are US\$8.00ea including postage (to US addresses). Overseas Members contact Paul Lawrence, N6AV, at n6av@scdxc.**



**Patches are US\$2.00 each.**

**Tee Shirts are US\$10.00 each Please specify size (M, L, XL, XXL)**

**Hats are US\$10.00 each**





# SCDXC--SDDXC SUMMER BASH 2003





## The FINAL END

On July 1st the Coast Guard Communication Station retired their Sparks. The historic "Sparks" from the Telecommunications Specialist Enlisted Rating Badge is no more. The specialty has been replaced with two others, the Operations Specialist and the Information Technology Specialist.

A ceremony was held honoring the Sparks and those that have worn them with speeches, vignettes of significant events in the Coast Guard's rich communications history, and a special treat for many: the opportunity to transmit and receive using Morse Code (Continuous Wave, or CW) and Radio Teletype (RTTY).

These services, CW & RTTY, once the mainstays of Coast Guard communications, have been retired for several years but was reinstated for this ceremony.

The historical significance of the Sparks dates back to the early days of radio when transmitters in normal operation did indeed emit blinding and deafening sparks. It did not take long before Wireless operators came to be affectionately known as 'Sparks' or 'Sparky'. Since the 1909 rescue of some 2000 souls from the sinking SS Republic, until today, those men and women known as Sparks the world over have been responsible for saving countless thousands of lives, the most famous of those the 705 aboard the RMS Titanic.

Throughout the history of wireless, the Coast Guard and its communications personnel have been at the leading edge. The very first use of wireless on the west coast was in August 1899, when the San Francisco Lightship announced by wireless the arrival of the Troopship Sherman. Since 1912, the Coast Guard has maintained a 24 hour / 7 day watch on Search and Rescue frequencies.

CAMSPAC traces its roots back to the former Radio Station (RADSTA) San Francisco, call sign NMC, which was originally commissioned on the beach at Fort Funston on February 1, 1937 a mile south of the present San Francisco Zoo. In June 1943, RADSTA San Francisco relocated to atop Mt. San Bruno on Sweeney Ridge. The new communications facility consisted of a ten kilowatt Western Electric high frequency transmitter and a one kilowatt medium frequency transmitter.

On October 12, 1972 the Coast Guard moved its primary west coast communications facility from Mt. San Bruno the Pt. Reyes National Seashore, and re-designated the unit as a Communications Station (COMMSTA). The COMMSTA was designated the Pacific Area Master Station and renamed CAMSPAC in 1986.

## Soap Box (cont)

*(Continued from page 2)*

Freeway going EAST. Continue EAST until JUST BEFORE you reach the 55 freeway. This is about 10 miles east of the 405, and 2 miles

east of the 5 freeway.

Just before you reach the 55, EXIT on TUSTIN Ave. Turn right on Tustin Ave, and then make an immediate left turn at the first light, which is Fairhaven Ave (my street). Take Fairhaven up and over the 55 freeway. Continue on Fairhaven, passing the light at Yorba. Then about 1/4 mile on the left hand side of the street, you will see my towers. If you get to the stop sign at Prospect, you have gone too far.

We are looking to organize another great DX convention, and if you are interested in being a part of helping to make that happen, we would like to see you there.

See you at the September meeting, and good Xing to all until then...

de Herb / KG6OK –



## **WESTLINK Alive and Well.**

We did not know this "broadcast" was still on the air. So, we were pleased to discover that Amateur Radio Newsline is still produced as an audio service by Newsline, a service of the Westlink Radio Network. Weekly summaries of subjects pertaining to Ham Radio are available on the web. Check them out at:

<http://www.tapr.org/newsline/>

## **Why Did They Collapse?**

While surfing the web, (after all the bands are dead) I came up with a great article explaining why the twin towers failed on 9/11. Apparently the main strength of the buildings were in the outer walls. Not in a central core. These walls were made of steel whose strength determinate when engulfed by the intense fire.

Check out the story at  
<http://www.civil.usyd.edu.au/latest/wtc.php>

It is very well written.

## **Intel Ships 1 Billionth Processor**

Second Billion Could Come as  
Soon as 2007

In 1978, a "hand-held" was a transistor radio, computers were gigantic mainframe, immobile machines, and the Internet was a project by a handful of research scientists.

Introduced in 1978, the original 16-bit 8086 chip contained only 29,000 transistors and ran at 5 MHz. The original IBM PC shipped with a version of the 8086, the 8088 in 1982, ushering in a new age of PC computing. In comparison, today's Pentium 4 processor contains 55 million transistors and runs more than 600 times faster at 3.06GHz.

## **Southwestern Division Convention 5-7 Sep 2003**

The HAMCON & Los Angeles Area Council of ARCs will hold its convention in Long Beach, CA. For detail information see:

<http://www.hamcon.org>




**Expert Tower and Antenna  
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<http://members.aol.com/kj6y/skip.html>

**COMMUNICATIONS  
SERVICE COMPANY**

## **Interesting Observation**

I went to the local Hazard Waste collection depot the other day to give up a dozen or more old paint cans. While there I could not help noticing huge piles of computers and monitors. It looked like the left-overs (or what should have been left overs) from the TRW swap meet.

I would estimate there were at least 400 of these gems! Soon to be melted down?

We also saw a dozen or so old TV sets.

A careful look did not turn up any old Ham Radios.

